FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ECONOMIC MEETING OPENS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Cuban Official's Remarks Cited

PA011545 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1418 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, 1 Aug (EFE) -- Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation, today dismissed the possibility that the U.S. economic embargo of Cuba will end any time soon.

Rodriguez Llompart is Cuban President Fidel Castro's personal representative at the SELA and CEPAL meeting that will open today in Santo Domingo. The meeting is slated to review the foundations for a Latin American response, drafted by SELA and ECLA, to the international economic crisis.

Rodriguez Llompart said that "current political conditions belie, in fact, any chance that the economic restrictions will end."

The Cuban minister added that the forceful steps implemented by the United States in Central America "render any initiative in this context even more remote."

"As you know, it has been announced that the maneuvers by U.S. military forces around Central America will last 6 months, but we don't believe they will end thereafter," Rodriguez Llompart said.

Hurtado Arrives 1 Aug

PA011505 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1446 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, 1 Aug (EFE) -- Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea arrived at the Santo Domingo Airport at 1030 today.

He was greeted by Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco, cabinet ministers, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the country.

Hurtado on Central America

PA020345 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2345 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, 1 Aug (EFE) -- Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado today favored the withdrawal of all forces foreign to the Central American countries, so that a solution to the armed conflict in the area may be found

He said that the presence of foreign warships in waters near the Central American countries "only contributes to increasing the conflict and creating less favorable conditions for peaceful solutions to be found."

President Hurtado made his statement during a press conference today in this capital city.

Hurtado added that elections in Nicaragua would be a contribution to the pacification of the area, and "the opening of the Sandinist government, as soon as possible, would help eliminate the factors of tension in Central America."

Hurtado rejected the creation of a continental peace force, because it does not represent an adequate solution to existing problems. "Ecuador would not be able to offer its support to an initiative of this nature," he added.

He described the recent statements by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Cuban President Fidel Castro as the opening "of some doors that had remained closed in the conflict. They show the flexibility without which it is not possible to find a peaceful solution."

Hurtado said that if a negotiated political solution is being sought, it can only be achieved if inflexible positions are set aside, "and these recent statements seem to point in that direction."

He explained that Ecuador has not taken an initiative in regard to the political problems that affect Central America, but that it supports all the initiatives that seek a political and peaceful solution to the problem.

Hurtado revealed that some cooperation agreements between the Dominican Republic and Ecuador had been studied, among them the possiblity of supplying oil and the search for other areas in which bilateral relations could be established, "which up to this moment have been very few."

Hurtado Views Economic Crisis

PA020320 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2156 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, 1 Aug (EFE) -- Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado said here today that "the economic crisis experienced by Latin America provokes social consequences that are extremely grave and endanger the political stability of the region."

The Ecuadorean president made this warning when he and Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco delivered the opening speeches at the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and Economic Commission for Latin American (CEPAL) meeting that began today in Santo Domingo.

The subject to be discussed during this meeting will be "the need to set the basis for a Latin American reply to the world economic crisis."

Hurtado added that "if the Latin American countries cannot pay their debts; if the international banks do not maintain lines of credit; if the multilateral organizations do not modify their cooperation plans; and if the United States remains impassive, hopeful of the effects of its recovery, then we might very well end up drowning."

"I believe that the Latin American and world problems are so great that the precarious international equilibrium could very well be affected and a very small spark could start a fire," Hurtado said.

Hurtado stated that Latin America's awarness of its economic problems was the impetus for this meeting in Santo Domingo, "not to create a debtors club, but to discuss an action plan which is directed against no one, but, if well planned, could benefit all the parties involved."

Hurtado added that the convening, first in Quito and now in Santo Domingo, of representatives of the region's heads of state "is because we believe that the crisis, local and foreign, has become bigger than those responsible for economic matters and has become a political matter."

In his speech to Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco, the SELA and ECLA, and Latin American heads of state, Hurtado stressed the urgent need for the higher authorities, in political matters, to assume the responsibility of discussing the necessary actions and committing themselves to seeing them through.

He urged the representatives to define during the meeting, the basic subjects that should be addressed by the Latin American countries.

In conclusion, he stressed the need to draft a selective list of the subjects proposed by SELA and ECLA for a future Latin American economic conference that would seek a solution to the crisis.

MEXICAN, VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN RIO

PY010131 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1638 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Rio de Janeiro, 31 Jul (EFE) -- Venezuelan Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda and his Mexican counterpart Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco arrived in Rio de Janeiro today. In Rio de Janiero, the two foreign ministers will attend one of the ceremonies to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Simon Bolivar's birthday and the 10th Conference on International Law of the OAS Inter-American Judicial Commission presided over by Agrentine Ambassador Jorge Aja.

The two visitors were met by the ambassadors of their respective countries in Brazil and by Antonio Fantinato, head of Itamaraty Palace (headquarters of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry).

Upon his arrival in Rio de Janeiro, the Mexican foreign minister praised the contribution made by Brazil and President Joao Figueiredo to the negotiations for peace in Central America carried out by the "Contadora Group" (Colombia, Panama, Venezuela, and Mexico).

During his stay in Brasilia, Sepulveda will devote his talks with his Brazilian counterpart to subjects of mutual interest to Mexico and Brazil. These two countries have been affected by the world economic crisis and have had to resort to the IMF.

Diplomatic observers in Rio have pointed out that economic and financial issues will be the main subjects of discussions between Foreign Minister Sepulveda and his Brazilian counterpart, Saraiva Guerreiro.

Remarks on Contadora

PA012023 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1903 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 1 Aug (EFE) -- Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda has praised the support Spain has given to the "Contadora Group," while Jose Alberto Zambrano, his Venezuelan counterpart, denied other countries admittance to the group.

The two foreign ministers were interviewed by EFE today during their stay in Rio de Janeiro, where they are participating in the 10th conference on international law organized by the Inter-American Juridical Committee, an OAS institution headed by Argentine Ambassador Jorge Aja Espil.

In his statement to EFE, the Mexican foreign secretary stressed that "Spain has not only voiced support for the 'Contadora Group,' but has urged other European countries to do so as well."

Zambrano Velasco said that "Central America's problem is regional in nature and that the Contadora Group is, therefore, composed only of countries in the area."

The Venezuelan foreign minister stressed that "there are no plans to invite other countries to join the 'Contadora Group,'" which is composed of Venezuela, Mexico, Panama, and Colombia.

Zambrano Velasco noted, however, that "the support that countries like Brazil, Spain, and France are giving us in our search for a peaceful solution to the problems currently plaguing Central America is very important."

Sepulveda said that he expects "neither the United States nor any other country to try to carry out military action in the region, because this might hinder the Contadora Group's peace efforts."

Minister Zambrano Velasco warned that "the big powers must abstain from intervening militarily in Central America, because the appropriate solution is the diplomatic path, on which we are already embarked."

L.A. PARLIAMENT ENDORSES CONTADORA GROUP'S EFFORTS

PA292014 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1715 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] The Board of Directors of the Latin American Parliament, which is meeting in Venezuela, has issued a resolution supporting the peace efforts of the Contadora Group, which is seeking options for solution to the troubled situation in Central America.

The motion, which was submitted by Luis de Leon Arias, former president of the National Legislation Council and current legislator for Panama Province, received unanimous support from the members of the Latin American Parliament's Board of Directors.

De Leon, who is assistant secretary of the Latin American Parliament, stressed in the motion of support to the Contadora Group that the implications of this peace effort call for profound reflection and analysis because Latin America's peace depends on Central America's peace.

62 ORGANIZATIONS REAFFIRM MIGUEL'S LEADERSHIP

PY300110 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1139 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Jul (NA) -- Peronist leader Lorenzo Miguel has managed to retain the leadership of the powerful Metalworkers Union [UOM] and has been reaffirmed in the post he had held until 1976 as secretary general, as the unity of the two sectors that had been disputing the union's leadership joined last night.

The two sectors in which the UOM, with approximately 300,000 members, was divided, and which were led by Miguel and Luis Guerrero, head of the UOM office in Avellaneda, agreed to designate a normalizing commission of 10 members, 5 for each sector.

This action will be submitted within the next few hours to the Labor Ministry so the commission can be immediately recognized officially and designated to replace current UOM interventor Lieutenant Colonel Mario Candido Diaz.

The designation of Miguel as secretary general without being a member of the proposed temporary commission responds to the fact that the top leader of the 62 Organizations refuses to be named by a Labor Ministry resolution.

The Azopardo faction of the General Confederation of Labor [CGT-AZOPARDO] will be represented in the leadership by Luis Guerrero (Avellaneda), who will be under secretary, a post he previously occupied in March 1976, and by Gregorio Minguito (Vincente Lopez), Ruben Dieguez (La Plata), Lisandro Zapata (Mendoza), and Juan Manga (Villa Maria, Cordoba).

Those who represent Miguel as members of the new commission are Mario Barrientos (San Martin), Mario Scalerandi (Rosario), Ruben Marcos (federal capital), Hugo Curto (Caseros), and Eduardo Santiago (Maria Juana, Cordoba).

Thus ends a process of approximately 2 months of talks. The talks had been gradually accelerated to the degree in which many of the ex-members of the CGT-AZOPARDO faction were turning in favor of Miguel, to the point of giving him the majority in internal elections.

The immediate consequence of the agreement achieved last night will, almost surely, be the end of the military intervention of the UOM which has been in effect since March 1976, given the fact that Labor Minister Hector Villaveiran has always insisted on the fact that the delay in designating a temporary commission in this and other unions was due to the lack of an agreement among the internal factions.

The other predictable consequence is that this agreement will lead to similar agreements in other unions where supporters of one of the two CGT factions will dispute control of the future temporary commissions.

This rapprochement will also mark the beginning of negotiations for the unification of the two CGT factions.

The situation of the two factions of the 62 Organizations is different, because each sector will remain in the organization that they prefer during the internal Peronist elections.

ALFONSIN REAFFIRMS POSITION ON MALVINAS TALKS

PY020148 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1025 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 1 Aug (DYN) -- Radical Party leader Raul Alfonsin today reaffirmed his party's position calling for a resumption of diplomatic negotiations to solve the conflict over the Malvinas Islands, but he made it clear that such a position does not mean that an end to hostilities in the South Atlantic should be declared "as long as Great Britain continues headlong down the path of aggression and colonialism."

The presidential candidate for the Radical Civic Union made this statement during the program "Magdalena and the News," which was aired over Radio Continental in reply to a question as to whether his party was in favor of calling for an end to hostilities in the South Atlantic.

Alfonsin replied that "the idea is to recover the Malvinas through actions we must undertake at the various international forums, thus to culminate what will be a reality in the near future, that is, the solidarity of other world democracies with Argentine democracy."

However, he added, that does not mean agreeing to end hostilities, as demanded by the British, because "at the same time that this question is submitted to the United Nations, Mrs Prime Minister (Margaret Thatcher) insists that negotiations with Argentina over the sovereignty of the islands will never be held and fortification of the islands continues."

MASSERA SAYS HE IS TARGET TO DESTROY PDS

PY312228 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 31 Jul 83 p 17

[From "Argentina in Brief" column]

[Text] The leader of the Social Democratic Party (PDS), Emilio Massera, who is at present detained in connection with the investigation into the disappearance of businessman Fernando Branco, said yesterday that he is the target of an operation to destroy his party, but warned that those who wish to carry out the alleged operation "won't make me their victim." The former commander-in-chief of the navy, in a letter sent to the leaders, members, and sympathizers of the Social Democrats, which was yesterday released to the press, thanked his followers for "the brave and affectionate solidarity" they have shown him.

TELEVISION MEDIA PERSONNEL TO STRIKE 2 AUG

PY020243 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0210 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Aug (NA) -- The media personnel of the capital's four television stations as well as of Channel 2 of La Plata will start a 48-hour strike at 0600 (0900 GMT) tomorrow. They are demanding a minimum salary of 2,100 pesos.

The decision was adopted tonight by the Inter-Channel Commission, in accordance with the mandate given it by the general assembly of the media personnel of the five television stations.

The commission has also decided that the personnel will continue to work, but strictly in accordance with their work rules, and with lessened cooperation for an undetermined period, until a solution is upcoming regarding their salary demands.

REPORTAGE ON FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER CHEYSSON

PY301907 Paris AFP in Spanish 1854 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Excerpt] La Paz, 30 Jul (AFP) -- French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson arrived in La Paz at 1420 local time (1820 GMT) today on a 4-day official visit during which he will meet with President Hernan Siles Zuazo and will examine the agreements reached in March 1983 between the French and Bolivian presidents. Cheysson was welcomed at El Alto International Airport by Acting Foreign Minister Mario Roncal Antezana, who is the minister of interior, migration, and justice.

Cheysson, Roncal Meet Press

PY011610 Paris AFP in Spanish 0010 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Excerpt] La Paz, 30 Jul (AFP) -- Following a 5-minute meeting, the French and Bolivian foreign ministers, Claude Cheysson and Mario Roncal Antezana, respectively, agreed here today to fight for democracy, which they regard as the system of government that suits Latin American countries best.

Cheysson had arrived in the country a few hours earlier on an official 4-day visit as part of a tour which took him to Brazil and which will be completed in the next few days with stopovers in Colombia and Cuba.

Roncal Antezana, who is acting as foreign minister since incumbent Marcial Tamayo is currently in Venezuela, told AFP that he agreed with Cheysson on the need to seek a peaceful solution of the Malvinas issue, acknowledging Argentina's right to those islands in the South Atlantic. Roncal added that they also had agreed to endorse the democratization process in the Southern Cone countries, such as Uruguay, for example, and to oppose the spreading of the Central American conflict. Roncal concluded by saying that Cheysson's visit provides valuable French support for the Bolivian democratic process.

Cheysson Activities Reported

PY011605 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Upon arriving at El Alto Airport, French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson said that his country is at the service of Bolivian democracy. The French dignitary went to Government House on 30 July at 1400.

Cheysson was met at El Alto Airport by Bolivian Acting Foreign Minister Mario Roncal, French Ambassador Jean Claude Guisset, Foreign Ministry personnel, and French Embassy staff. Shortly after his arrival, and after reviewing part of the [name indistinct] regiment, Cheysson met with members of the Bolivian press and told them that he was pleased to be in Bolivia: I am pleased to be in Bolivia; this is my first visit to this country and I am coming as a French envoy. This is very fortunate and it gives me a chance to greet the Bolivian people, the diplomat said.

Asked about cooperation projects between the two countries, Cheysson said that the Bolivian Government will raise the subject and went on to say that his visit is of a friendly nature and that he placed himself at the service of Bolivian democracy. Afterward, Cheysson excused himself for not being able to make any more comments to the press and said that he will answer questions during a press conference to be held today at the French Embassy.

Later on, under strict security measures, Cheysson went to Plaza Murillo, where he laid a wreath at the tomb of Marshal Andres de Santa Cruz. On 31 July, Claude Cheysson laid another wreath at the Simon Bolivar Monument, visited Lake Titicaca, and the Bolivian High Altitude Biology Institute and, finally, gave a banquet for Acting Foreign Minister Mario Roncal.

Today Cheysson is scheduled to meet President Hernan Siles Zuazo and Vice President Paz Zamora. Cheysson will also meet with the leaders of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.

Cheysson, Siles Meet

PY011902 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] President Hernan Siles Zuazo and French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson met this morning and discussed economic cooperation, technical assistance, and other matters of mutual interest. The 2-hour meeting was held at the San Jorge House.

Sources connected to the French Embassy reported that they focused on the EEC to see if the latter could act as an intermediary before the IMF and the Paris Club so that Bolivia could get relief from the heavy burden of foreign debt on its public sector, which is in excess of $4 billion.

During the talks held between Siles Zuazo and Cheysson, in which other high-ranking government officials and members of the French mission also participated, the parties focused on drug-trafficking and Bolivia's efforts to eradicate it. It was established that, in addition to Bolivia, such countries as Colombia and Peru are also involved in this illegal activity.

During the talks, President Siles Zuazo and Foreign Minister Cheysson discussed various other matters in order to draw up, as soon as possible, protocols implementing French cooperation. The talks held by the dignitaries ended shortly after 1030. Afterward, the illustrious visitor left for the Legislative Palace to fulfill other commitments.

Foreign Minister Cheysson will meet this afternoon at 1600 with union leaders of the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] and visit the French Embassy later, ending his stay in Bolivia.

SILES ZUAZO RECEIVES VISITING FRENCH SENATORS

PY300345 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 28 Jul 83 p 9

[Text] A delegation of French senators has arrived in La Paz to meet with Bolivian officials, gather information on the situation of the democratic process, and exchange ideas on the state of relations between the two countries.

The French senators have been received by President Hernan Siles Zuazo, with whom they had a dialogue regarding the need for increased cooperation between Bolivia and France, particularly at the present time when our country is facing an economic crisis as well as problems caused by natural disasters.

Jean Francois Pintat, the head of the delegation, said that the French senators "have come to get an idea about social, economic, financial, and industrial problems" in Bolivia. He explained that they, being legislators, cannot interfere with tasks which pertain exclusively to the French executive branch, but that they will nevertheless "promote an increase in Franco-Bolivian relations in all fields." The other members of the delegation are Senators Paul Guillard, Maurice Prevoteau, Philippe Madrelle, Michel Alloncle, and Jean Marcer.

The senators have also had separate meetings with the leaders of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies of the Bolivian Congress. Their activities in La Paz also included a meeting with Mayor Benjamin Miguel to whom they awarded the Silver Medal of the French Senate. Next Saturday, the French foreign minister will arrive in La Paz for an official visit.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR DIES OF HEART ATTACK

PY011328 Paris AFP in Spanish 1312 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] La Paz, 1 Aug (AFP) -- It was reported here today that Sergey Kovalev, Soviet ambassador in Bolivia, died from a heart attack in La Paz last night. Kovalev had been ambassador in La Paz since May 1981. Prior to that he had been carrying out tasks for the USSR Communist Party. He was 53 years old and had two children. He had been under emergency medical treatment at one of the best-known hospitals of this city for the past 2 weeks.

The Soviet Embassy reported that a funeral ceremony will be held in La Paz before Ambassador Kovalev's remains are sent home.

PCB DECIDES TO STAY IN GOVERNMENT, UDP

PY012138 Paris AFP in Spanish 1825 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] La Paz, 31 Jul (AFP) -- It was reported today in La Paz that the Bolivian Communist Party (PCB -- pro-Soviet Union) has decided to remain in President Hernan Siles Zuazo's cabinet and in the Democratic and Popular Unity Front [UDP].

The communists, who met in a regional congress in Oruro, located 220 km south of the capital, described as a huge mistake the decision of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), which is headed by Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora, to leave the official coalition, which also includes the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI), which is headed by Siles Zuazo.

The PCB believes that the UDP is the firing line of the Bolivian people, while congress, where the MIR has decided to play its most important role, is an inoperative organization that only issues resolutions and conducts interpellations of ministers. The decision of the communists comes at a time when the chief of state is preparing to reorganize his cabinet, which he will do within the next few days.

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

PY020143 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Jul 83 p 4

[Excerpts] Regarding the Central American crisis, French Foreign Relations Minister Claude Cheysson stated yesterday that his country fully supports the Contadora Group's position to "allow the countries of the region to solve their problems through a political dialogue."

Cheysson, who held a press conference at the Santos Dumont Airport's VIP hall just before leaving for Sao Paulo, pointed out that those countries should handle their problems "without the inconvenient interference from the other side of the world or even U.S. interference."

During the 50-minute meeting with journalists, Cheysson reasserted that during the meetings he held with Brazilian authorities he had discussed everything: foreign policy, East-West balance, the need for a good relationship between countries and, naturally, the need for trade and cultural exchange between Brazil and France.

The French foreign minister voiced his concern over the amount of the Brazilian foreign debt, stating that that concern is linked to the paralyzation of the country's growth and pointed out that France, which has some authority in the IMF because it is one of the 10 economically developed Western countries, will support Brazil during the negotiations with the IMF since Brazil's recovery is important for the economy of industrialized countries.

Cheysson stated that proof of the confidence which the French have in Brazil is the establishment of small-and medium-enterprises in the field of computers, electronics, etc.

Answering a question, the minister denied that French businessmen are getting ready to leave Brazil in view of the economic crisis and pointed out that the Brazilian authorities observe the rules of the market economy although from a different point of view from that of the French Socialist Government.

Although he pointed out that he would rather not refer to the subject, the French foreign minister briefly referred to his government's position regarding Priest Aristide Camio and Francois Gouriou who are under arrest in Brazil. He stated that there are many French citizens with problems in various countries of the world and that the French authorities have carried out negotiations seeking to improve these unfortunate people's situation.

PRC STATE COMPANY TO BUY TUCURUI TIMBER

PY291255 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Jul 83 p 10

[Text] There is a buyer for some of the timber from Tucurui made available from land-clearing for a hydroelectric plant site. The PRC state company Chinese Native Products has already purchased $50 million worth of the timber. Over the next few months, the company will import approximately 490,000 cubic meters. This was revealed in Brasilia by Counselor Li Menghou, who added that his government intends to continue buying Brazilian timber, considering its quality and price.

CABINET ACTION FOLLOWS MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

PA011626 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota -- All of (?the ministers) will meet in the next few hours to take a general position on the cabinet crisis that began today with the resignation of Government Minister Rodrigo Escobar Navia. The ministers will draft a letter of protocol, leaving President Belisario Betancur free to (?reorganize) his cabinet.

Meanwhile, Minister Escobar Navia's resignation has been officially announced. The resignation that the minister tendered to the president of the republic is dated 1 July, but it was not announced until today.

The other ministers will hold a meeting within the next few hours to define the terms of the message that they will address to the president of the republic in order to leave him free to reorganize his cabinet. A ministerial crisis is thus in full swing.

HAVANA ON STONE'S SECOND TALKS WITH BETANCUR

PA312340 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] Richard Stone, the U.S. special ambassador to Central America, will meet with Colombian President Belisario Betancur for the second time in less than a week. Stone had planned to arrive in Bogota tomorrow, but he advanced his trip and arrived at the TAM [Military Air Transport] Military Airport yesterday.

The diplomat had met with Betancur in El Salvador and Guatemala this week, when the Colombian president visited those countries with Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella as part of the Contadora Group, which is seeking a peaceful solution of the Central American conflict.

9 DIE IN ESCALATING GUERRILLA VIOLENCE

PA312250 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 29 Jul 83 pp 1, 11

[Article by Eduardo Castillo]

[Excerpts] A surprising escalation of guerrilla violence shook Colombia yesterday, causing a total of nine deaths -- eight insurgents and one civilian -- as many injured, the occupation of two towns in Santander and Cundinamarca, and the theft of more than 20 million pesos. Four acts of violence were blamed on the Army of National Liberation (ELN), a pro-Castro group, and on the Tiznados [The Smudged Ones] group.

A group from the Tiznados organization forcefully occupied San Jose de Suaita, a town located south of Santander with a population of 2,000, and robbed the branches of the Agrarian Bank, the Cattlemen's Bank, and the Coffee Growers Bank of more than 3 million pesos. The criminals then tried to get into the jail to rescue their comrades, but were driven off by police, who killed two of the group. Another member of Tiznados was killed as he was leaving one of the banks. The city's mayor identified the criminals killed during the incident as Alfonso Saavedra, one of the leaders of the assault, and the brothers Ernesto and Gumercindo Diaz Murillo.

Meanwhile, some 25 hooded ELN members launched a spectacular assault in which they took 15 million pesos from the local branch of the Coffee Growers Bank and destroyed radio equipment owned by the Colombian Agricultural-Livestock Institute, ICA, in Tibaitata. During the assault, a government worker was killed and two individuals, including a policeman, were wounded.

On learning of this bold assault, joint patrols of the Army, police, F-2, and DAS [Administrative Department of Security] surrounded the main entrances to the city, but could not capture any of the 25 male and female guerrillas, who fled to Tibaitata and Cundinamarca in a Ranger and three Fiats. No description of these vehicles was given.

Troops from the Magdalena Battalion took part in violent clashes with a faction of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] between km 23 and km 25 on the road that links Pitalito and Mocoa. The military command reported the death of five guerrillas from the 13th Front of the FARC and the seizure of rifles, field equipment, and FARC documents. The identity of the insurgents was not determined.

Meanwhile, in Medellin, an urban ELN faction attacked the local branch of the Agrarian Bank, located at the intersection of Highways 51 and 61 in the downtown area of the capital of Antioquia, and stole 300,000 pesos. These were no casualties or injuries during the incident. The guerrilla unit, made up two men and two women armed with automatic weapons, escaped in a vehicle that was waiting for them not far from the scene of the crime.

HAVANA ON RECENT GUERRILLA ATTACKS, HOLDUPS

PA010010 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] A group of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia attacked the village of Suaita in Santander Department and, after holding up a bank, clashed with soldiers [words indistinct] at the scene.

Another guerrilla group simultaneously attacked an experimental farm in Tabaitata, 30 km west of Bogota, and stole $37,000.

The Colombian Defense Ministry has reported that at least six people died in these clashes.

GOVERNMENT TO REQUEST $8.4 BILLION IN CREDITS

PA011852 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota -- Colombia will request $8.4 billion in loans from the consultative group that will meet in Paris in Ocotober. According to the government, it expects to receive $3.8 billion in new capital resources over the next 4 years. Government spokesman has indicated that the country will request $2.5 billion in credit from the World Bank, $2 billion from the IDB, $2.2 billion from the commercial banks, $1.3 billion from equipment suppliers, and $400 million from the governments of several countries.

A large part of these foreign resources will be allocated to programs in key sectors, such as agriculture and health. The remainder will be used to develop the infrastructure and mining works and to expand the electrical sector. The consultative group's meeting is slated for 17-19 October.

NEW MINISTER NAMED; TWO MORE SCHEDULED

PY300144 Paris AFP in Spanish 2205 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Lima, 29 Jul (AFP) -- Peruvian President Fernando Balaunde made an unexpected change in his cabinet today when he appointed Engineer Juan Carlos Hurtado Miller agriculture minister. Hurtado, who is now president of the state-run Agrarian Bank, will replace Mirko Cuculiza, who assumed his post on 3 January and has been harshly criticized because of the sugar shortage the last 2 months.

There will be two other changes in the cabinet in the next few days. The industry and justice ministers, who belong to the rightist Popular Christian Party (PPC), which cooperates with the government of Belaunde's Popular Action, renames the heads of the two ministries every year. The new industry minister will be Ivan Rivera, an economist who has been the pupil of economic theorist Milton Friedman, in Santiago, while Ernesto Alayza Grundy will be the new justice minister. They will replace Gonzalo de la Puente and Armando Buendia.

Belaunde also announced the appointment of Ignacio Basombrio Zender as head of the National Planning Institute.

LA REPUBLICA SCORES U.S. CENTRAL AMERICAN POLICY

PY292240 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 23 Jul 83 p 14

[Editorial: "Two Unfortunate Initiatives by President Reagan"]

[Text] According to a common phrase in U.S. political jargon, there is nothing more dangerous than the United States before presidential elections. Ronald Reagan seems to be determined to do everything to prove this phrase is true. His policy in Central America, a policy marked by boasting and aggression, has unleashed the most serious political-military crisis in the century in Latin America. This crisis is more serious than all the previous interventions and more dangerous than the Cuban missile crisis and the Malvinas war. The possibility that six Central American countries may engage in a war is a new turning point in the history of imperialistic actions in the U.S. backyard.

Aside from his secret forces and the hawks in his Army, Reagan is virtually alone in this endeavor. The U.S. Congress (and not only the Democrats, but many Republicans as well) has opposed the escalation of the aggression of Central America. The international social-democratic movement, which disagrees with Reagan, has proposed an alternative plan for solving the conflict in the region. The Latin American governments that have joined the Contadora Group efforts, or that have endorsed them, are seeking to neutralize this big stick and gunboat policy.

But Ronald Reagan's attitude remains unchanged, perhaps because he is convinced that his best choice for 1984, from the viewpoint of the elections, is to drive his country into a state of war in which it will be essential to maintain a tough president in power, and particularly now that new interest rate increases have unveiled the weakness of the economic recovery that he was planning to achieve and that his attempts at nuclear blackmail have crashed against European common sense (just as his efforts to hinder construction of the Siberian gas pipeline did).

The designation of Henry Kissinger as the head of a commission that will take care of his policy in Central America is both a symbol and a reaffirmation of his heavyhandedness. Reagan can hardly fail to realize that this frivolous and gloomy diplomat, who acted as President Richard Nixon's adviser, is not welcome in Latin America and that the role he played in the eradication of democracy in Chile in 1973 would be enough to disqualify him as an interlocutor in this continent. Kissinger's presence in Central America does not infuse hope for peace. On the contrary, it represents the victory of the militarist sector in U.S. policy.

A clear proof of this is that Mr Kissinger has not made his appearance on the Central American scene alone. He was escorted by a war fleet that has in fact reinforced the CIA-driven mercenary forces that are operating along the Nicaraguan borders. And the presence of the fleet also has the clearcut purpose of nullifying the search for regional solutions that Central American foreign ministers have undertaken following the Contadora Group proposals.

The presence of U.S. ships is a challenge to the Contadora Group proposals aimed at curbing the arms race, ending the activities of foreign advisers, and demilitarizing the region. It is also a clearly belligerent answer to the Nicaraguan request for a dialogue directed at restoring peace in Central America. Thus, with only two decisions (the designation of Kissinger and the sending of the fleet), Ronald Reagan has shown to the world, just as he did during the Malvinas war, that he enjoys absolute freedom to do as he pleases in Latin America. Things have been that way so far, and the protest of those who might still disagree with the big stick had better rise now and not when events are over, as has happened thus far.

ARMY CHIEF STRESSES DEFENSE AGAINST ECUADOR

PY300305 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 25 Jul 83 p A-5

[Excerpts] Speaking during a ceremony marking the 42d anniversary of the battle of Zarumilla [in which Peruvian forces defeated Ecuadorean troops], Major General Julian Julia Freyre, chief of the Army General Staff, paid tribute to the soldiers who participated in the 1941 campaign. He also stressed Peru's firm determination to enforce the Rio de Janeiro Protocol and to resort to force in order to answer any Ecuadorean provocation.

Julia Freyre, who spoke last night during a solemn session held at the headquarters of the Society of the Founders of Independence, of the Victors of 2 May 1866, and of the Defenders of the Fatherland, remarked that Peru is still facing the danger of external threats, mainly because of the expansionism of its traditional northern adversary.

In the face of the international tension that still persists as a result of the Ecuadorean attitude, we must categorically state that even though Peru has given testimony of its peace-loving policy, Peruvians will not allow the expansionism of any state to result in any infringement upon their rights or in territorial concessions, General Julia said.

For this purpose, he pointed out, the Peruvian Armed Forces are perfectly well prepared and ready to carry out the political decisions that may be necessary to safeguard our rights, as was done in 1941, in 1978, and in 1981, and as will be done whenever required.

SUSPENSION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY MAY BE DECREED

PY020315 Paris AFP in Spanish 0051 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Aug (AFP) -- According to well-informed circles this evening, it appears that within the next few hours the civilian-military government will issue a decree temporarily suspending political activities in Uruguay with the aim of reducing political tension in the country.

The same circles stated that the decree will ban the media from reporting on political issues for a few months and the political parties from carrying out political activities, thus restricting them to merely administrative activities.

According to well-informed sources, this suspension of political activities is allegedly in response to the possibility of resuming the institutional dialogue between the politicians and military authorities.

Rumors in this regard were reported by the media today, and they included reports on a possible reorganization in the military leadership, where the possibility of a continuation of the dialogue resides, but with "a few changes in the bases upon which the recent and aborted dialogue were cemented."

A few days ago reliable sources pointed out the existence of talks betwen high-ranking military and political authorities, who are allegedly willing to continue negotiations within a more favorable and moderate atmosphere.

A few weeks ago seven useless meetings aimed at advocating a constitutional reform, especially regarding state security, failed owing to what the leaders termed the inflexibility of the armed forces.

RAPELA DENIES KIDNAPPING OF POLITICO'S AIDE

PY011915 Montevideo Radio EL ESPECTADOR Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Excerpt] The commander of the 1st Army Division, General Julio Rapela, today denied the alleged kidnapping of Professor (Glenda Roldan de Romero), Julio Maria Sanguinetti's secretary. General Rapela called a press conference during which he stated that the alleged kidnapping was nothing more than a fantasy made up by the alleged victim. According to Rapela, the investigation carried out by the proper organizations showed that what was disclosed by the alleged victim was completely false.

General Rapela said:

[Begin recording] We have conducted the appropriate investigations to clarify the charges made on 22 July about an alleged kidnapping or detention of a female citizen who was reportedly questioned by her captors. In keeping with our investigations, we requested the person involved to come to the headquarters of the 1st Army Division and we even requested the support of the Montevideo Police.

As a result of the conversations held with Mrs (Glenda Roldan de Romero), we have arrived at the conclusion that the entire issue is a fantasy and that the alleged detention or kidnapping never took place. I must note that the lady in question is a literature teacher and that in addition she directs two theatrical groups. Therefore, she has theatrical inclinations. Moreover, we talked with people who are close to her and they noted that she has a big imagination. [end recording]

SEPULVEDA AMOR OFF TO BRAZIL ON OFFICIAL VISIT

FL012101 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2050 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- For the purpose of reviewing Mexican economic and political agreements with Brazil, Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor began a 3-day visit to Brazilia today, the Foreign Secretariat has announced.

The Mexican foreign secretary will meet with the Brazilian acting president, Antonio Aureliano Chaves de Mendonca, and his counterpart, Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, as well as with other representatives of the Brazalian legislative and judicial branches.

In his talks with the Brazilian acting president, the Mexican Government envoy will discuss the Central American conflict, a spokesman of the Foreign Secretariat indicated.

Likewise, Bernardo Sepulveda will meet with the Mexican ambassadors to South America, during which Mexico's relations with Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Argentina, Bolivia, and Uruguay will be examined. Also to be discussed in that meeting is the economic situation of the South American countries within the international context, the Foreign Secretariat announced.

SILVA HERZOG COMMENTS ON ECONOMIC SITUATION

FL301522 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0235 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Chihuahua, 29 Jul (NOTIMEX) -- For the first time in 39 years, the balance of trade has recorded a surplus amounting to $6.5 billion, and the sale of products other than oil by-products has increased, Secretary of Finance and Public Credit Jesus Silva Herzog announced today.

The secretary noted that imports have decreased, but that the amount of oil exported during the first 6 months had averaged 1.5 million barrels daily. During a speech at the 19th junta meeting -- organized by Diemex-Wharton and sponsored by the Mexican enterprise to promote Chihuahua's industry -- held every 6 months to examine the country's economic evolution, the official said the country is traversing a severe process of economic adjustment which, as in similar cases in all countries in the world, has favorable aspects. Among the favorable signs, the foreign exchange market has normalized and in the past 2 months has gained international reserves, he said.

Silva Herzog stated that our sales in dollars have been greater than our purchases, and we have had positive results in the foreign exchange market. The price of the Mexican peso abroad is no longer different from that of the national market, which is why we have recovered the exchange market's sovereignty. With respect to the foreign debt, the secretary said the most important negotiation in the history of the world has been finalized, which is the restructuring of the government debt due between August 1982 and December 1984 into an 8-year term, obtaining an additional $5 billion to support development.

Regarding public finances, he noted that the government's deficit during the first 6 months of the year amounted to 394 billion pesos, 24 percent less than during the same period last year and 26 percent of the total amount estimated for the entire year.

Inflation is going down, and in June the monthly rate of inflation was 3.8 percent, while in January it was 10 percent. However, he reiterated that inflation is Mexico's most important problem in the short term and, due to the proximity to the United States, the country cannot live with interest rates of previous years.

During the first 6 months of the year, the Mexican banking industry, which now is nationalized, gained 654 billion pesos, 3 times more than it gained during the same period last year.

Silva Herzog assured that the problems the country is traversing today are not Mexico's exclusive property. In Latin America, practically all countries are having similar problems, with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and the Central American region among the more outstanding.

The country will come out of the crisis stronger, which is why we have to be more efficient and rationally use the resources we have always had but which we now have in smaller quantities due to international and internal problems.

Finally, referring to the process of banking indemnification, he said it has been difficult and complex, and it is estimated that the indemnification value of the first banks will be known within the next 10 days.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S PRESSURES, DEPARTURE, CHARGES

Publicly Denounces Pressure

PA011524 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Rene Hernandez report]

[Text] Ever since we were appointed and confirmed as attorney general, our intention was, has been, and will continue to be that of making way for reason and justice, without emotionalism and with the necessary honesty, Rafael Rodriguez has stressed. Deeply worried and in a heated voice, Rodriguez said that he is being pressured in connection with the various investigations that he is conducting.

Commenting on the various strikes that are currently being staged in several of the Social Security Fund's clinics, Rodriguez said:

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez, in progress]...activities in support of the director of the Social Security Fund. Several National Bank employees have called to tell us that a letter in his behalf is being secretly circulated among them. We will not tolerate any kind of pressure in connection with the investigations. If he feels that he is free of any responsibility and is innocent, then no one and nobody should fear the investigation. We assume that he is innocent. We will investigate. He should remain calm. The Social Security Fund employees should not be forced to take to the streets, because it is the Social Security Fund beneficiaries who are affected. Innocence will not be proven through greater or lesser support, or with more people out in the streets, whether applying pressure or not.

I warn that I have given the national government until 0700 to put an end to these pressures. If this gentleman does not put an end to these presssures by 0700, I will convoke the fatherland, and I will duly address it, because I will not let this gentleman pressure me, not with signatures, nor letters, nor demonstrations. No one and nothing can pressure me. If he went around cackling that he wanted an honest, upright, and objective investigation, we will conduct just such an investigation. We assume that he is innocent, and he should not fear this investigation. Nor should public employees be used to sign documents or public organizations be used to exert pressure, because I will not tolerate that.

I am not following any lines here, not even from engineer Norberto Navarro [contractor involved in Social Security Fund scandal]. It is simply that a charge has been made and I have the legal obligation to investigate it.

They have until 0700 to put an end to these pressures. I repeat, until 0700, or I will summon the student and labor unions and all of the country's organizations as well, to tell them a few things that I think are vitally important. I have set a deadline of 0700.

[Hernandez] Mr Attorney General, if you do come across additional pressures in the course of the investigations that you are conducting as attorney general, if you come across obstacles set up by government officials, would you remain at the head of this office?

[Rodriguez] I don't know. The homeland will decide that. Only the homeland can decide that. I told the president of the republic that the investigation would be conducted in an unemotional climate, objectively, and not by manipulating public employees or forcing them to stage demonstrations, because that runs contrary to the ethics of an official.

As attorney general, I would be incapable of acting in such a way. District attorneys, officials, and public employees have all come here to close ranks behind me, but I have told them: You are not going to sign a single letter, ever. I will not accept any support. The only support I have is of the personal kind. The day that either the homeland or the people don't want me, then I will leave; I would not stay here a single minute longer. [end recording]

Departs for U.S.

PA011534 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Former Attorney General Rafael Rodriguez left this afternoon for the United States, where his mother lives. The former attorney general left alone, using a diplomatic passport, to which he was entitled because of his government position. He boarded Eastern's flight No 984 at 1242.

He was accompanied to the Omar Torrijos Airport by Hernan Delgado, former president of the bar association and Rodriguez' personal friend, relatives and by former Venezuelan Ambassador to Panama Cesar Rondon Lovera.

It has not been confirmed whether Rodriguez will receive medical attention in the United States, but it was recalled that the former attorney general was in Houston, Texas for medical treatment a few months ago.

Colonel Diaz Denies Charges

PA011708 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Interview granted by Colonel Tomas Diaz Herrera, Panamanian National Guard G-2 and deputy chief of staff, to an unidentified reporter; date and place not given -- recorded, broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Diaz] I was very much surprised, because I know that official -- better yet, because I know that man, that citizen. I was surprised that he made those charges, which I still don't believe he could have made. I would have to hear him say it. Perhaps his statement was twisted by some sector of the media, which could have distorted his statement in publishing it.

I participated in a meeting in this room where he was asked about that which the president has already reported. He was asked to state who was putting pressure on him, harassing him, or impeding his investigation. He then pulled out of his hat, as the saying goes, a request to be appointed to the supreme court. I don't know if such an appointment could have been made at that moment, but he was advised that the court had no vacancy. This could have been a legitimate goal of his, of course.

The rest, however, looks like one of the Kafka novels -- which are very involved and twisted, and which I myself cannot understand -- if it is true that he said what has been attributed to him.

The rest of the novel, the part about a death threat from me, forces me to make reference to my 22 years of service, to my record, which I can present without blushing. I have never been accused, put on trial, or summoned to any state attorney's office or to a court because of abuse of position or for undue reference to any office. I have an unblemished record, which is a source of great pride for my family, which knows that what has been said, if he did say it -- I repeat -- is not true.

I have many defects, like any other human being, but those who know me -- many people in this country, fortunately -- those who are friends, those who are acquaintances from places where I have worked, know how I act, know of my Christian and humanistic upbringing in the Santiago home where I was reared. They know of my development in public schools -- a development that began in Santiago, Veraguas, and concluded with my military development in Peru. Mine has been a development that includes both military and humanistic preparation.

This does not make me a saint; no one is. But is does show that I respect other people's rights.

[Question] Colonel, how would you describe the former attorney general's attitude?

[Diaz] If he did say that, it reflects an attitude that cannot be understood at all and I would not dare characterize it, for it would require an expert analysis, and I am not a specialist who can say in what condition he made such a statement.

ARIAS CALDERON ON GENERAL PAREDES' CHARGES

PA011740 Panama City Radio Continente in Spanish 1245 GMT 1 Aug 83

["The Word" program with Mayin Correa, with guest Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Panamanian Christian Democratic Party -- live]

[Excerpts] [Correa] Friends, you are all aware of this weekend's incidents: The resignation of the country's Attorney General Rafael Rodriguez, Rodriguez' charge involving the president -- according to Rodriguez, the president was aware of what was going on at the Social Security Institute -- and then, General Ruben Dario Paredes' accusation against the political parties yesterday.

[Begin Paredes recording, in progress] ... involuntary mistakes. Torrijism does not mean justice for a few and injustice for the many. Torrijism does not mean continued deception of the people, a turning the homeland over to those who could not, unfortunately, remain aloof of Marxist goals. Torrijism means to continue to perfect independence until the year 2000, as stated in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. Hatred cannot prevail in this country. Harmony, love, and peace will always prevail here. But there are those who have access to the media and who have come forth, 2 year later [after Torrijos' death], and are trampling on Torrijos' tomb with hatred. To them we say: Leave him in peace! Let him rest in peace!

Torrijism is what we are witnessing here today. Everyone is here, regardless of class, beliefs, color, origin or social level. Torrijism is tantamount to Christianity. True, Torrijos made mistakes. However, only he who is not human and does not dare to do anything makes no mistakes.

In conclusion, I am going to take this opportunity to denounce an incident that, fortunately, was aborted a few hours ago. On this occasion, I call on the people of my fatherland, peasants, laborers, professionals, businessmen, and common citizens: Do not be surprised by the plot that we have just averted, which was undertaken by political parties that are desperately seeking power.

We have discovered that some political parties, with the support, unfortunately, of a high-ranking official who has resigned -- I refer to former Attorney General Rafael Rodriguez ... [Paredes does not complete sentence] We have uncovered an attempt to subvert order, to destabilize the nation, and to interrupt the process of democratization that we are trying to carry out through peaceful, clean and honest elections.

[Words indistinct] the people's final word through the votes at the polls. [applause] [end recording]

[Correa] That was General Paredes' charge against political parties that want to destabilize the country and to prevent the country's full democratization, in a specific effort to thwart the elections scheduled for May and June 1984.

Today, we have a representative of one of the political parties to which the general was certainly referring, because it is an opposition party: the Christian Democratic Party.

Ricardo Arias Calderon has requested the use of the microphones of this free and independent program to refute the charges made by General Paredes. Isn't this right, Arias Calderon?

[Arias Calderon] I want to comment on the incidents that led to this charge. The first thing that we must say about General Paredes' statement -- which was repeated by President de la Espriella, though in a weaker tone -- is that it was a notorious lie. I repeat what I have just said: Paredes' accusation that the opposition political parties were reportedly involved in a subversive plot, an accusation that De la Espriella repeated in a weaker tone -- weakness that is normal in him -- is a notorious lie. It is a lie for two clear reasons, which the public can quickly understand without me having to go into too much detail. If these charges were true, General Paredes should have arrested all leaders of the opposition parties and tried us, for he is either the National Guard commander or he is not.

Any National Guard commander who discovered that the opposition parties were involved in a plot to subvert and oust a regime would arrest the leaders of those parties. And if the president of the republic had the same suspicions, he would be obligated to do something about it. If neither has had the courage to arrest the opposition leader, it is because they were lying when they said that we were involved in a conspiracy to overthrow the regime.

When one hears the president's interview and Paredes' speech and reads the explanation that they tried to give about the incidents involving the attorney general, one thinks: What have they tried to suggest?

They've tried to suggest that the attorney general's accusations -- and I will get to the bottom of these charges -- will only be believed if he has credibility. They've implied that we have only his word on the matter, but this is not true; we also have the testimony of Prosecutor Cuestas.

When the attorney general said that Carlos Santamaria involved the president in handling funds that an insurance broker paid to the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] as a commission, he is making a statement not based on what he heard Santamaria say, but based on what Prosecutor Cuestas heard along with him. Therefore, we are not talking about Rodriguez' testimony alone. But this is not the end of complementing testimonies.

In his remarks, Rodriguez also referred to the fact that the president asked him not to continue investigations into COFINA [National Financial Corporation]. Was Rodriguez the only one to hear this insinuation, which was a coverup and an obstruction of justice? No. It was clearly established in his statement that Anabel Fong, a prosecutor, was also there. Thus, we not only have the testimony of Rodriguez, and Cuestas, but Fong, too, is a witness to the obstruction of justice in the COFINA investigation.

The president also tried to suggest that it was impossible that Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera had sopken with Rodriguez at noon on the tragic day on which they forced Rodriguez to resign. He claimed that while Rodriguez was at the National Guard Headquarters, Diaz Herrera was at the presidency. I have reports that calls were made from the presidency while Rodriguez was there and that of those calls, at least one was from Col Diaz Herrera. So, why lie about it?

Yesterday, they made Carlos Santamaria appear on television and say that the authorities never found $300,000 in his house. However, Rodriguez said not only that that amount was found, but that it was spend on 400 typewriters and cars for the attorney general's office. Were they purchased or not? This can be verified. What funds were used for this purchase? Were they budgeted funds or were they funds that have not been specified? This is an indirect but valid way to determine whether Rodriguez was telling the truth.

He also said that he thinks Cuestas has copies of those checks, and he spoke of one specific check, if my memory serves me correctly. It is a scandal and a shameful act: I am referring to the check made out to the PRD by the insurance brokerage firm owned by retired Colonel Garcia; and via whom? Via the president of the republic. If this is true, the president's hands are dirty with Social Security Institute money. These are funds to which we have contributed. How can the president of the republic know that this charge has been made against him and not bother to refer to this matter? Either the checks exist or someone is lying.

In effect, prosecutor Cuestas gave his own account -- and, therefore, we have more than Rodriguez' version -- of a meeting attended by Gen Paredes, de la Espriella, and Vice President Illueca. In this meeting, Gen Paredes told them that there would be a coup d'etat unless they stopped the investigation into the president. This is a coverup of complicity and an obstruction of justice. So here we have the two basic facts: indications of the president's complicity and an attempt to cover up this complicity by obstructing justice.

In addition to the evidence of the president's complicity in the Social Security scandal and the coverup of this complicity and the obstruction of justice when the attorney general and prosecutor Cuestas were pressured to terminate their investigations -- along with the threats and violence involved in making the country's attorney general resign -- they are now constructing a fabric of lies around all of this.

We have lies by the National Guard commander in accusing political parties of subversion, when he knows, or should know very well, that the president spent the afternoon trying to get the opposition parties to listen to his explanation. He knows very well that this entire crisis has been the result not of an initiative by the oppostion, but of mutual accusations between Norberto Navarro [contractor involved in Social Security fund scandal] and Luis Alberto Arias [Social Security Institute director]. This is a result of their accusations: Navarro accused Arias of mishandling National Bank funds, and Arias accused Navarro of blackmail. It is these accusations that led to the crisis that we are now experiencing, and not some opposition conspiracy.

To me, this sums up the critical situation we are undergoing: First, there is the president's complicity in the Social Security scandal, which has been confirmed by Rodriguez and Cuestas. Second, there is an attempt to cover up this complicity and to obstruct justice in a meeting led by Paredes and De la Espriella and attended by Illueca; there are two witnesses to this meeting. Third, there were the threats, pressure, and violence used against the attorney general to make him resign, of which we have not only Rodriguez' testimony, but that of Hernan Delgado [president of the Federation of Professional Associations of Panama]. Fourth, there are all kinds of lies: Lies in the presidential palace communique, in the president's interview, in Paredes' speech and in Diaz Herrera's statement.

What kind of overall outlook do we have because of this? We have a picture of the most complete immorality ever disclosed by any regime in our history.

BRIEFS

FRAMPO SECRETARY GENERAL RESIGNS -- Dr Renato Pereira resigned today as FRAMPO [Frente Amplio Popular -- Popular Broad Front] secretary general. [Summary] [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Jul 83 PA]

ILLITERACY DECREASE -- Education Minister Susana R. de Torrijos has reported that there are 187,134 illiterates in Panama, a 6.5-percent decrease in absolute terms. [Summary] [Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Jul 83 p 8-C PA]

COSTA RICA

EXTREMISTS REPORTED INVOLVED IN LAND INVASIONS

PA291405 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] The Public Security Ministry has confirmed the presence of well-known national and foreign extremists in the recent cases of land invasions in several parts of the country. Published reports by high-ranking officials indicate that these suspicions have been confirmed through an investigation whose main findings are being kept secret. It has been learned that the government has determined that the country's Atlantic region is in the greatest danger from subversive actions.

In the cantons of (Pocosi), (Guasimo), (Roxana), Rio Jimenez, and others where there have been seizures of land, there are well-armed and well-trained squatters.

The government is carefully studying the report stemming from the investigation of the land invasions. The report emphasized the situation in the Atlantic region and the danger that at any moment the squatters and their leaders could carry out destabilizing action. It has been recommended that the government remain alert to complications, since it is facing very well-trained and armed individuals. Our sources said that patrols of squatters have even been organized in some farms in the Atlantic region. They added that these well-organized patrols are armed to the teeth and operating day and night.

EL SALVADOR

ZAMORA DISCUSSES TALK WITH U.S. ENVOY STONE

Bogota Interview

PA020015 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Report on interview with FDR leader Ruben Zamora, by unidentified reporter, braodcast directly from Bogota by Emisoras CARACOL Network for Radio Cadena YSU -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] I am asking Ruben Zamora if, after his recent talk with Richard Stone here in Bogota, he thinks there is a possibility of reaching an understanding, a solution, to the Salvadoran political crisis.

[Zamora] The path to a political solution is not an easy one. We know it will be difficult. However, we think that yesterday's meeting was a step in that direction. In this sense, we feel more optimistic after this meeting than before, and we hope that new steps will follow until we reach our goal.

[Reporter] How was your meeting with Stone arranged?

[Zamora] The meeting was arranged after we sent a letter to Stone in reply to a message he sent us. In the letter, we suggested the possibility [word indistinct] or through other means. He preferred direct talks, and this is how the meeting was arranged.

[Reporter] You have said that the meeting in Bogota was the initial step and that a second step will possibly follow. What would the second step be?

[Zamora] As we said, this was a preliminary meeting. The next step would logically be a (?plenary) meeting with other U.S. Government representatives, Ambassador Stone, and a larger FMLN-FDR representation.

[Reporter] We know of the importance of the meeting, but we would also like to know more details about the human and personal aspects of the meeting. For example, what was your first approach? How did you greet Stone? How did he respond? Did he call you by name? How did it go?

[Zamora] We were introduced by President Belisario Betancur, who played a very positive role in making the meeting possible [words indistinct] and we addressed each other in the normal way all individuals do. The fact that the U.S. Government and our fronts are confronting each other in our struggle in El Salvador does not mean that we cannot hold civilized talks to try and find political solutions to the problems.

[Reporter] President Betancur recently received a letter from [word indistinct] Ungo. Although you are not directly involved, what was the content of the letter?

[Zamora] I do not know which letter you are referring to. He has sent several notes to the presidents of the Contadora Group countries, so I do not know which specific letter you are referring to.

[Reporter] Which one of these letters do you now consider the most interesting?

[Zamora] I would say they were all interesting.

[Reporter] I understand that a firm path is being taken toward a solution to the Central American crisis.

[Zamora] There is no doubt that the Contadora Group has made great efforts which are very positive, and have had definite results. An example of this is the detente achieved on the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border. We must admit that this is a specific achievement of the Contadora Group. We think that after the Cancun summit, and based on the favorable reaction it has received from all parts of the world, the Contadora Group has been strengthened and can now proceed more actively toward detente in Central America. Unfortunately, at the same time we must regret the attitude assumed by the U.S. Government in sending a war fleet to Central American territorial waters, which in no way contriubtes to peace, but only increases tension.

[Reporter] Should the Contadora efforts fail, do you think the issue will be brought before the OAS, and if so, what do you think the results would be?

[Zamora] If the matter should be brought before the OAS, it would be quite formal, although the ineffectiveness of that organization is already known throughout the world. However, if the Contadora efforts fail, then we will be closer to direct U.S. military intervention in Central America. This should be avoided by all nations of the area.

[Reporter] Was the withdrawal of foreign advisers from Salvadoran territory discussed during the meeting with Mr Stone?

[Zamora] Referring to the contents of the meeting, we agreed with Mr Stone to keep them private; therefore, I cannot make any comment.

[Reporter] Despite that agreement, Mr Zamora, it has been learned that you discussed the possibility of naming a committee with representatives from the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas.

[Zamora] That is absolutely false. That was not brought up at all. Ambassador Stone knows -- as we stated in a letter to him -- that he represents the United States; that we cannot consider the U.S. Government a mediator in the Salvadoran conflict, because we consider the United States to be a direct party to the conflict, supporting the regime of Alvaro Magana. Under such conditions, it cannot be a mediator.

[Reporter] Would the resignation of Magana be one condition for solution of the Salvadoran conflict?

[Zamora] We did not discuss that issue at all, since the meeting was in fact of a preliminary nature.

[Reporter] Since Henry Kissinger is head of a committee that will make recommendations to the U.S. President, did you seek a meeting with Kissinger during your talks with Stone?

[Zamora] I repeat that we agreed with Stone to keep our talks private, and this will be done, at least on our part.

[Reporter] Since you said that the United States cannot act as a mediator because it is considered part of the Salvadoran conflict, does this mean your talks with Stone were as a party to the conflict, and not as a mediator?

[Zamora] No, we only expressed our opinion regarding the U.S. position. We know that Stone considers the U.S. role to be different. We do not intend to impose our views on Ambassador Stone, but neither are we going to allow Ambassador Stone to impose his views on us. This is one of the points of disagreement between the two parties.

[Reporter] Mr Zamora, you have been presented as a member of the Salvadoran guerrilla movement. What does being a member of the guerrilla movement mean to you?

[Zamora] I want to explain that in this dialogue I represent the two fronts -- the FDR and the FMLN. My representation expresses the alliance existing between the FDR and the FMLN.

[Reporter] How many men do you think the FDR and FMLN today have in El Salvador?

[Zamora] The number of FMLN fighters is a military secret.

[Reporter] Mr Zamora, we thank you for your interview and are pleased that Bogota was the scene of this first meeting, which we hope will lead to lasting peace in your country.

[Zamora] I also want to thank President Belisario Betancur and the Colombian people for having been so kind to us and for their efforts in the search for peace.

Comments on Elections

PA020054 Paris AFP in Spanish 2239 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota, 1 Aug (AFP) -- Ruben Zamora, delegate of the Salvadoran leftist guerrilla movement, today said in Bogota that to hold elections in El Savlador this year would be "political suicide."

Zamora, who at the request of Colombian President Belisario Betancur met yesterday in Bogota with U.S. roving Ambassador to Latin America Richard Stone, today left "for somewhere in Central America."

The Salvadoran guerrilla leader said over the Bogota "TV Hoy" television program that President Betancur's efforts to achieve peace in Central America have been positive.

"President Betancur has imposed his moral authority and paved the way for the parties in conflict in Central America to meet and start a dialogue," Zamora explained.

He warned that "we are not going to participate in an election under the present conditions in El Salvador because, I repeat, it would be suicidal."

"What we are willing to do, and we have made this clear, is to start a process for a political solution, reach an agreement on the nation's problems, and discuss an electoral process in which we would be willing to participate."

He noted that his talk with Stone -- the first held between the Salvadoran leftist guerrilla movement and the U.S. Government -- "was frank and direct because we made good progress."

Zamora did not discard the possibility that the U.S. Government may only be seeking publicity through the talks, but he emphasized that events will indicate the true intentions of the Reagan administration.

The meeting between Zamora and Stone, the first held by the Salvadoran opposition with an official representative of the U.S. Government, is part of the efforts underway for negotiations by the FMLN-FDR with the sectors involved in the Salvadoran conflict, Zamora said.

Parallel to the talks with the U.S. Government, the opposition groups have made efforts to start a dialogue with the Salvadoran Governemnt. In that respect, they sent a letter to the Salvadoran Peace Commission, an official entity, proposing to start a dialogue, which has been received "positively," Zamora added.

The Salvadoran opposition leader recalled the six basic points of the peace proposal submitted by the FMLN-FDR, which includes a change of the socioeconomic system, a solution to the problem posed by the existence of two armies in the country, the formation of a provisional government, and the establishment of conditions to hold elections.

"The problem of the elections cannot be considered separately from the process of a political solution" to the Salvadoran crisis, he insisted.

Approached by reporters, Zamora condemned the "unusual" presence of a U.S. fleet in Central American territorial waters, and said it was "a clear obstacle to peace through dialogue."

He also denied that the announced postponement of the Salvadoran presidential elections, initially scheduled to be held before the end of the year, is related to the talks currently underway. "The postponement responds to the government's inability to hold them, and it has nothing to do with the efforts for a dialogue," he noted.

In conclusion, Zamora briefly referred to the military situation in the country and pointed out that "it favors the development of the people's army in El Salvador," noting at the same time the prevailing internal problems within the Armed Forces.

Addresses Press in San Jose

PA012358 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2238 GMT 1 Aug 83

[By Wilfredo Chacon S.]

[Text] San Jose, 1 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- In an unusual public appearance in this capital today, Ruben Zamora, the top diplomat of the Salvadoran guerrillas, announced that yesterday's meeting with U.S. special Ambassador Richard Stone in Bogota was preliminary.

In a brief exchange with local and foreign newsmen before leaving for Washington [as received], Zamora revealed that he has also had written contact with the Salvadoran Government's Peace Commission and that he held a meeting with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge in this capital today.

Zamora stressed, "so that it will be very clear, that the meeting with Stone was of a preliminary nature."

"This was just a preliminary meeting, not a plenary meeting of the FMLN-FDR, and its objective was the establishment of a process of dialogue between President Reagan's special emissary and the FDR-FMLN," he underlined.

In the second place, Zamora said that the FMLN-FDR has not changed "its view that the U.S. Government is a party to the Salvadoran conflict."

This is why the guerrillas "cannot accept the United States in the role of a mediator and a party at the same time, because the two roles exclude one another," he explained.

Zamora said that he "wanted to state very clearly" that the initiative for a dialogue with the Salvadoran Government (Peace Commission) is a separate initiative from that being developed through the talks with the U.S. special ambassador to the region.

Ruben Zamora said that the communication with the Salvadoran Government's Peace Commission has a dual purpose.

"We sent the commission a written message from the FMLN-FDR to try to set up a dialogue, and some 10 days ago we received a reply from them. In that sense, one could say that it is positive," Zamora said. Based on this, he continued, "actions are underway to establish a dialogue with the members of that commission."

Zamora added: "On the other hand, we have told the U.S. Government of our willingness to hold a dialogue, and in this area steps are also being taken to achieve a meeting between delegates of the two parties."

According to Ruben Zamora, his "preliminary meeting" with Richard Stone in Bogota on Sunday was to pave the way for the next meeting between the U.S. delegates and the FMLN-FDR.

Regarding the results of the meeting, Stone has said: "The two parties have agreed that the content of our conversations will remain private." The date and venue of the next meeting are also shrouded in secrecy.

Zamora termed the presence of a U.S. fleet in Central American waters as "unusual" and said that "this is a clear obstacle to the achievement of peace by means of dialogue and negotiation in Central America, and casts doubt on the good faith of President Reagan's administration in the process of seeking a political solution."

Nevertheless, the guerrilla diplomat agreed that "this threat to our countries' sovereignty" makes it even more urgent to redouble efforts to defend those countries and to seek dialogue and negotiation as well.

With this, Zamora said, we would obtain not only a political solution to the area's problems; we would also render unnecessary, as well as impossible, the threatening presence of the U.S. naval force in our territorial waters.

Lists Delegates To Talks

OW020005 Hong Kong AFP in English 2303 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Excerpts] San Jose, Costa Rica, Aug 1 (AFP) -- The United States and El Salvador's leftist guerrilla movement have agreed to probe for peace at a meeting of two delegations soon, Ruben Zamora of El Salvador's Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR) said here on Monday.

He said this was agreed Sunday by him and U.S. presidential envoy Richard Stone in Columbia at the first meeting of a rebel representative with a U.S. official.

The time and place of the next meeting is secret, Mr Zamora said. But he revealed that the rebel delegation will consist of Mario Aguinada and Mardio Lopes, representing the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (an alliance of guerrilla organizations) and of Socialist International Vice President Guillermo Ungo and Mr Zamora representing the FDR (an alliance of leftist opposition parties).

Before coming to Costa Rica from Colombia, Mr Zamora ruled out the possibility of the rebels taking part in El Salvador's election scheduled for the first quarter of next year. Considering the present conditions in El Salvador, for the rebels to trust their fate to an election supervised by El Salvador's Army would be political suicide, he said.

Mr Zamora said here that the rebels want to negotiate on six key points, including the composition of a provisional government. Until now, the Reagan administration has contended that the rebels should only be entitled to a share in the government if they won that in a democratic election.

He said the other five points the rebels want to negotiate were socioeconomic reforms, resolving the problem of having two hostile armed forces in El Salvador, modalities of a cease-fire, how to hold elections, and working out a foreign policy independent of U.S. influence.

Ambassador Stone arrived in Nicaragua Monday afternoon, and immediately began conferring with leaders of the leftist Sandinista regime.

Informed sources said the Sandinistas would demand suspension of the U.S. military maneuvers in neighboring Honduras planned for the next few weeks, and demand withdrawal of U.S. warships from Nicaragua's Pacific coast.

Commander Victor Tirado, a leader of El Salvador's guerrillas, said in Managua Sunday morning that serious negotiations could not start unless the American flotillas withdrew.

Before leaving Columbia, Ambassador Stone refused to give any details on the process that we (he and Mr Zamora) initiated. But the U.S. envoy commented that the only way to seek peace was in such face-to-face contacts.

He said his trip to Nicaragua was to see if there is a chance to reduce tension in that area. Washington accuses the Sandinistas of supplying El Salvador's rebels with weapons.

Travels to Nicaragua

PA020207 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Ruben Zamora, delegate of the FMLN-FDR of El Salvador, left for Managua today after meeting with President Luis Alberto Monge to brief him on the results of the first contact with U.S. roving Ambassador Richard Stone in Bogota.

In Managua, Zamora will meet with Nicaraguan Government officials and later will continue on to Mexico to conclude his tour after talking with Mexican officials.

PARTY OFFICIAL VIEWS ELECTION POSTPONEMENT

PA011935 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 1 Aug 83

["Meet the Press" program, with interview of Colonel Roberto Escobar Garcia, secretary general of the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party (PAISA), by unidentified reporter -- live]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Sir, a matter has come up this weekend, namely, that the elections that were so enthusiastically announced for the end of this year by many sectors will reportedly not be held in 1983. What is your opinion of this?

[Escobar] On this particular point, PAISA has no set program based on dates; our program responds to developments. For us, the issue is not time, but circumstances. For example, we maintain that the constitution and the electral code must be approved, and that a proper voter registration list must be ready. If these three things could be ready by November, PAISA would welcome elections in November.

However, if these three things could not be completed by the end of 1983, and the elections were to be postponed until early 1984 -- no later than March -- PAISA would also find this an acceptable situation. We need a climate of legal and electoral guarantees for the elections. The constitution and the electoral code provide the legal guarantees, and an ample, adequate voter registration period will guarantee clean and honest elections.

[Reporter] Another burning topic of great concern to El Salvador, Central America, and the world is violence -- the constant loss of human lives that are valuable to our country. According to statistics, some 40,000 fellow countrymen have already lost their lives, to our regret, and dozens of families continue to endure this ordeal, the end of which is still not clearly in sight. As the leader of PAISA, do you have any proposals that could be put into effect to bring an end to the violence in El Salvador?

[Escobar] I am not sure how many minutes we have left in this very timely program that you are conducting, so I will try to be as brief as possible. However, I must provide a little background on this. In the simplest possible terms, the problem is that a group of Salvadorans chose -- or were forced -- to estrange themselves from society, took up arms that were given them, and began to carry out inhuman and anti-patriotic acts against their own society, and, specifically, against the legitimate armed forces of that society.

Consequently, as long as this group of Salvadorans, who have alienated themselves from society, persist in this behavior, or as long as they are not neutralized, it is clear that the violence will continue, because they are not genuinely motivated by their own principles, but are being motivated by outside interests -- via Nicaragua, Cuba, and the USSR -- as has been said so many times before. Thus, this question of violence -- which has internal repercussions in El Salvador at this stage of the conflict, and as events are developing -- has turned into a problem with international ramifications and foreign guidance. The local groups have become instruments of a strategic and perhaps even geopolitical policy. As a result, I truly and enthusiastically welcome any effort that may contribute to the restoration of peace in El Salvador, one of them being -- I repeat -- elections, because they will give these groups a chance to reconsider and the opportunity to rejoin the society that they have abandoned, after which they could make use of civilized and democratic means to outline their aspirations to the various branches of government, so that they may see their struggle, which they claim to be waging for the sake of the Salvadoran people, fulfilled.

To me, and to PAISA -- which has analyzed this problem with great interest and deep concern, as have all Salvadorans, as you said before -- the best solution to this problem of violence is through elections, to be participated in by these groups, if possible. We feel that elections constitute the perfect dialogue. Moreover, they are the means by which politicians address the Salvadorans, as I am doing right now. The people are listening; they are assessing the platform of the party I represent. PAISA says so-and-so; PAISA proposes this or that. Right now, this dialogue that is taking place is really a monologue; the political leaders are talking, and the people are only listening. However, the people will answer us, and on election day the dialogue will be completed. It is on that sort of national consciousness that we politicians must focus our attention, it is that which we must strive for, to make our parties' platforms known to them. That is why I want to urge all Salvadorans to look to the elections with the same enthusiasm as they showed on 28 March, because elections as such are the best means, and the most civilized means, of obtaining stability and peace in societies like ours, which have chosen to live under a democratic system.

REPORT ON SAN VICENTE CASUALTIES, NUNS CASE

PA301359 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1752 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Report by Raul Beltran -- live]

[Text] San Vicente -- Seven soldiers of the 5th Brigade who were killed in a guerrilla ambush yesterday afternoon in the sector known as Buena Vista Farm, near Tecoluca, will be buried this afternoon. According to official reports from San Vicente, 12 other soldiers were wounded. They were given immediate medical attention at the San Vicente regional hospital and then transferred by the Salvadoran Air Force to the military hospital in this capital.

The armed forces have also continued patrolling the area near Tecoluca. According to initial reports, at least 20 individuals have died in confrontations with government troops.

Also in San Vicente, the operation Pacification and Welfare for San Vicente continues in its third month under the leadership of some 4,000 soldiers, who are also supporting the engineering works and restoration of areas being carried out by the armed forces and various government ministries.

Meanwhile, in La Paz Department, since February, when the prosecution phase of the trial proceedings against four national guardsmen implicated in the killing of four U.S. nuns began, and at the point when trial documents were to be sent from Zacatecoluca to San Vicente's First Penal Court, new irregularities in trial procedures were discovered. Judge Bernardo Rauda Murcia, who is well-versed in the case, made the above statement to the YSKL news department this morning. Rauda Murcia said that, based on actions requested by a group of U.S. lawyers, new errors have been discovered in the case. It is hoped they will be corrected in the next few months. The judge said that new witnesses have been summoned, including Colonel Francisco Antonio Moran, former Treasury Police director. Colonel Moran has already been summoned by the Second Penal Court in San Salvador, but his statements have not been revealed. It is still uncertain whether he has given testimony as a witness to the court, Rauda Murcia said.

It was also noted that even Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova will have to testify in the case. Judge Rauda Murcia said that the new irregularities stem from the fact that the U.S. lawyers maintain that the Treasury Police and the National Guard conducted simultaneous investigations of a group of suspects linked with the murder of the U.S. nuns. The press also learned that former National Guard agent Dagoberto Martinez Martinez will arrive at El Salvador's international airport early tomorrow morning, accompanied by U.S. agents. Martinez left the country some months ago under U.S. protection to testify in the United States in relation to the death of the U.S. nuns. Martinez, who lives in the United States, will arrive in El Salvador early tomorrow morning. He will probably testify at the airport and then return to the United States under protection, according to reports from top officials of the Salvadoran Justice Ministry and Supreme Court of Justice.

ARMY CONTINUES OPERATIONS IN MORAZAN DEPARTMENT

PA300421 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 29 Jul 83 pp 2, 61

[Excerpts] San Miguel -- The Army's advance is continuing through various areas of northeastern Morazan Department, where subversive camps are being destroyed and large quantities of war supplies and food are being recovered.

Members of the Lenca Battalion and the armed forces paratroopers squad, with support from the Air Force and artillery, continue their task of dismantling the terrorists' strongholds.

One column is advancing from the town of Sociedad, while another is moving forward from Cacaopera in an encircling operation. Meanwhile, the entire area, where a large number of extremists were entrenched, is being searched.

Several camps -- El Tablon de Sociedad, Baria Negra (the largest), Babilonia, and other camps in Corinto -- have been destroyed. The troops are continuing to move down Nube Hill to the Calavera canton in Cacaopera to meet the other column. The towns of Sociedad and Corinto were earlier subjected to terror from the subversive hordes, but because of the armed forces operation, are now free of fear.

Army Sharpshooters Reported

PA280447 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 26 Jul 83 p 20

[Text] Sharpshooters trained in Panama have joined the counterinsurgency operations being carried out in Morazan Department, military sources in the department reported.

The sources indicated that the sharpshooters were dispatched to the general operations area between Corinto and Sociedad, where the Salvadoran Army maintains strict control by occupying strategic positions.

The sources also stressed that the troops continue to advance and that total control over Corinto and its vicinity is expected in the next few hours. This area has been an ideal rebel bastion because it is surrounded by mountains.

Meanwhile, San Juan Opico residents reported a heavy attack on the brigade that guards ANTEL [National Administration for Telecommunications] 2 nights ago.

Reports indicated that some 10 heavily-armed men Staged the attack on members of the artillery brigade that guard ANTEL.

COPREFA [Armed Forces Press Committee] confirmed the attack, adding that this was a failed harassment attempt, because the rebels were effectively repelled in a clash that lasted about 30 minutes. COPREFA also said that the Army sustained no casualties and that it was not possible to determine whether the attackers suffered any. The attackers chose to flee.

MILITARY SOURCES REPORT GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES

PA302235 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Excerpt] The leftist guerrillas once again control a small sector of the highway to Suchitoto, some 50 km from San Salvador. They also attacked a small security post in Concepcion Quezaltepeque and wounded three members of the town's civil defense, military sources reported.

The sources also reported that the querrillas ambushed a small military patrol near Cerron Grande. Three patrolmen were wounded and two guerrillas killed.

Meanwhile, in San Salvador, four persons were killed in the past 24 hours as a result of political violence, the military sources reported.

VENCEREMOS NOTES POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS FARCE

PA012020 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Alvaro Magana has confirmed that the electoral farce will be held not in December of this year, but in the early months of 1984, for reasons beyond control and because the constitution is not yet ready.

Originally, the elections were scheduled to take place in 1984, but during the visit of Pope John Paul II to El Salvador, Alvaro Magana solemnly announced that they would be held this year. Magana's announcement was helpful to Reagan when he asked the U.S. Congress for military aid for El Salvador, claiming that the dictatorship was making efforts to achieve democracy.

Once the military aid was approved, elections were relegated to a secondary role. In an analysis presented by Commander Mercedes del Carmen Letona in May, the postponement of the electoral farce was highlighted and described as a maneuver carried out by the dictatorship.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CITES MINISTERIAL CHANGES

PA011640 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1618 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 1 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- A Guatemalan Government spokesman confirmed today that Interior Minister Ricardo Mendez Ruiz will no longer hold that position; he is to take another position in the Army.

Official spokesman Gonzalo Asturias explained that Mendez Ruiz will be appointed inspector general of the armed forces and that Deputy Government Minister Haroldo Cabrera will replace him in his post.

He added that this change falls within the category of "routine public administration changes, to dispel any speculation to the contrary."

The spokesman added that other replacements are scheduled, including that of Captain Edgar Villanueva, director of the executive board of the Pacific port complex, who will also return to a position in the military.

CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMY MINISTERS TO MEET

PA291406 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Excerpt] The Central American economy ministers will meet in Guatemala on 11 August. They will discuss the extension of industrial contracts, the new tariff policy, and the region's economic stabilization. Prior to this meeting, there will be a meeting of deputy economy ministers in Guatemala on 9 and 10 August to analyze these subjects and to propose alternatives to be discussed by the ministers.

100 GUERRILLAS SURRENDER IN SUCHITEPEQUEZ

PA012015 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] The largest number of guerrillas since the amnesty period ended last April have surrendered in Suchitepequez.

Some 100 guerrilla activists turned themselves in to the military authorities in Mazatenango this weekend, raising the number of guerrillas who chose to cease their armed struggle in that department this month to over 150. This has been reported by correspondent Arturo Rivas Herrera.

The 100 people who put down their weapons will soon return to their communities, according to a bulletin issued in Military Zone No 13 based in Mazatenango. The bulletin adds that the former guerrillas brought military supplies -- weapons, ammunition, material to manufacture claymore mines, masks, and combat gear, all of which they used to carry out subversive actions -- with them. This material was taken from them by the military zone personnel.

The bulletin adds that the example set by these 100 citizens who turned themselves in to the authorities should be emulated by others who are still involved in insurrection but are tired of leading a life that produces nothing but concern for them and their relatives.

5 GUERRILLA DEATHS IN TWO WEEKEND CLASHES REPORTED

PA020025 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Saturday afternoon, near the town of Chitu, Coban jurisdiction, Alta Verapaz, a military patrol detected elements of a clandestine group. In the ensuing clash, two members of the group were killed, but could not be identified because they carried no personal documents, according to the Army's Public Relations Office.

The Army also revealed that at 0900 Saturday, in San Juan Atitan, Huehuetenango, rebel groups clashed with a force of 30 soldiers, who fought their way out of an ambush set up by the subversives. After the ambush, the troops chased and caught the rebel group and after a brief skirmish, killed three subversives. Three soldiers were reported slightly wounded in the clash.

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT REPORTS SUAZO CORDOVA HOSPITALIZED

PA020359 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0346 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova was admitted to Comayagua Hospital on Sunday, 31 July, for a medical checkup. According to the medical reports, the president's condition is normal and stable, but he has been ordered by the doctor to remain in bed, for rest.

[Dated] Tegucigalpa, Central District, 1 August 1983

[Signed] Information Office, Secretariat of State for the Presidential Office

PRESS ANGERED BY AMBASSADOR'S ANTI-U.S. ACTION

PA020145 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Anibal Villatoro, Honduran ambassador to Venezuela, has been called a traitor to Honduran interests. Last week, the Honduran ambassador voted against the U.S. Government at a SELA meeting. Anibal Villatoro voted against the U.S. Government, condemning it for its economic aggression against Nicaragua.

Because of this decision, some of the media, such as Tegucigalpa's EL HERALDO, have called Villatoro a traitor to the fatherland.

The editorial in today's edition of EL HERALDO begins as follows:

It is not possible to use any other term to describe the position adopted at SELA by Anibal Villatoro, Honduran ambassador to Venezuela. It is also impossible to avoid a polite but stern scolding of those responsible for selecting and appointing out diplomatic corps, which should be done only after meticulous examination of the personal qualifications, merit, and ideology of the citizens who will represent the Honduran state and people in other friendly nations.

The SELA sessions in the Venezuelan capital have revived a tactic that in recent times was used systematically by delegations from countries which follow guidelines prepared by the Communist bloc.

SELA issued a strong statement in which it condemns the U.S. Government for actions harmful to the Nicaraguan Sandinist economy. The SELA statement would have had no meaning to Hondurans except as another demagogic outburst to which we are so accustomed. However, within SELA, an unexpected and extraordinary event took place which inevitably involved the Honduran Government and people and generated surprise and confusion in national circles, which have now become justified angry and ardent protests by our social and political sectors and mass media.

Why did the Honduran ambassador to Venezuela and delegate to SELA vote for that organization's condemnation of President Reagan? That was the real aim of the infamous resolution. He voted against the principal member of our technical, economic, and military alliance. He voted in favor of Sandinism, and in a way adverse to the legitimate interests of the Honduran people, whom he has placed at risk of losing aid indispensable to the maintenance of our economic stability.

EL HERALDO goes on to say in its editorial that the vote was an attempt to sabotage a very important Honduran industry, a source of exports and job opportunities for thousands of co-nationals.

We know that Ambassador Villatoro's complicity with the Sandinist maneuver does not reflect the Honduran Government's official position. We repeat -- we know that Ambassador Anibal Villatoro's complicity with the Sandinist maneuver does not reflect the Honduran Government's official position.

As a result, it is urgent that the executive branch emphatically disavow this diplomatic imprudence in order to put things in their proper perspective and dissipate any suspicion that could mar our excellent and cordial relations with the U.S. Government and people.

NICARAGUA

GOVERNMENT ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON TALKS WITH STONE

PA020143 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0128 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued the following press communique on the visit to Nicaragua by Richard Stone:

In response to an invitation from the National Reconstruction Government, on Monday, 1 August, roving Ambassador Richard Stone visited Nicaragua and met with Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the National Reconstruction Government Junta; Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman; and Companero Saul Arana, in charge of the North America Department of the Foreign Ministry.

The Nicaraguan Government considers that the talks, which are a continuation of the dialogue that began on 10 June 1983, have been useful. Nicaragua reiterates its willingness to spare no effort in the search for just and lasting solutions to the current Central American crisis by means of frank and constructive dialogue.

[Dated] Managua, 1 August 1983

[Signed] Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ORTEGA, SOVIET OFFICIAL DISCUSS CONTADORA, UN

PA020125 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0048 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Live relay from the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry; statements by Fokin in Russian, with sentence-by-sentence translation]

[Text] At this very moment Daniel Ortega Saavedra, the corrdinator of the National Reconstruction Government Junta, is meeting with Companero Yuriy Fokin, the secretary general of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Companero Fokin is here to discuss matters pertaining to positions that the two countries will assume at the United Nations. Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman and Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco are also participating in the talks.

Upon their arrival at the Foreign Ministry, Fokin and Ortega held the following dialgue:

[Begin recording] [Fokin] [Words indistinct] I delivered to the companeros of the Foreign Ministry an invitation to visit our country [words indistinct]. We hope this invitation is accepted.

[Unidentified Soviet speaker] This invitation is to exchange views regarding the upcom- upcoming session of the General Assembly. Therefore, we invited him to Moscow (?to discuss with him there) what will occur at the next session of the General Assembly.

[Ortega Saavedra] We consider the Soviet Government's attitude and statements regarding the peace efforts of the Contadora Group, as well as the support that they have given to the proposals that Nicaragua made on 19 July, very positive. All our efforts at this time are aimed at trying to ease the tense situation in the region and to seek peace. We place a high value on the attitude the Soviet Union has assumed in this regard.

[Fokin] We are willing to support all the [words indistinct] Nicaragua from aggression. [end recording]

This was the dialogue between junta coordinator Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Yuriy Fokin, the secretary general of the USSR Foreign Ministry, in which the following topics were highlighted: Soviet support for the Contadora Group's efforts, support for the peace plan proposed by Nicaragua on 19 July by Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra himself, Soviet support for Nicaragua, and an invitation for Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman to visit the USSR in the near future.

WHEELOCK MEETS WITH CPSU'S PONOMAREV IN USSR

PA010003 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Moscow -- Boris Ponomarev, CPSU Central Committee candidate member, and Nicaraguan Agriculture Minister Jaime Wheelock strongly criticized U.S. militarist actions in Central America. Wheelock, member of the FSLN National Directorate, is in the USSR at the invitation of the Agriculture Ministry.

PRAVDA today carries a communique issued after the Ponomarev-Wheelock conversations, in which the USSR reiterates its full solidarity with Nicaragua's sacred right to decide its own destiny and to defend its revolutionary gains.

Ponomarev and Wheelock also stressed the importance of the efforts that the Contadora Group and the Nicaraguan Government are making for a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict.

ARDE CALLS FOR UNITY OF ANTI-SANDINIST GROUPS

PA281335 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] San Jose, 27 Jul (ACAN-EFE) -- Today the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, led by Eden Pastora, Alfonso Robelo, and Brooklyn Rivera, issued a declaration that establishes the basis for an understanding and unity with the other anti-Sandinist organizations, especially the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, that is fighting in the northern area of Nicaragua.

The alliance directorate states that ARDE is, in itself, a unity of various groups, and on various occasions it has tried to join with other organizations which it has invited to participate in a dialogue, but has not received an answer.

Should the FDN wish to join forces, ARDE will require it to "clean up its general staff," currently composed exclusively of former Somoza guard officers. Aside from the clean up, ARDE asks the FDN to prove its political and military independence, and to agree, through a political plan, to rescue the Nicaraguan revolution.

The alliance led by Robelo, Pastora, and Rivera declares that the defeated Somozist National Guard is an enemy of the people and of ARDE, and that Somozism "is a mode of conduct that is against national interests."

Regarding former Somozist guards, the leaders of the alliance state that there is a substantial difference between the National Guard as an institution and former members of the institution who are not guilty of crimes or corruption and who "have the chance to struggle for the freedom of the Nicaraguan people." The document adds that "this is why it is necessary that the democratic organizations publicly clarify their positions through plans and programs, so that the people will know them."

The ARDE leaders also stated that the FDN fighters who are struggling for the liberation of Nicaragua and don't desire the reestablishment of the National Guard as an institution deserve "fraternity and respect."

The declaration concludes by expressing the faith that once ARDE has clarified its position, the other Nicaraguan democratic organizations will approve that position "to build national unity on a firm basis and on unmistakable commitments to the prompt liberation of suffering Nicaragua."

U.S. ROLE IN CENTRAL AMERICA REVIEWED

FL011336 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Political and military tensions have increased in Central America. They were unleashed by Yankee imperialism's constant threats of military intervention. The six points put forth by Nicaragua for a peaceful solution to the conflict have met with rejection by the United States, which is continuing to try to play the role of continental master.

The warlike aim of Ronald Reagan is to blockade Nicaragua with warships on its Atlantic and Pacific coasts in accordance with the plans of the Pentagon. Another indication of the U.S. President's reactionary gunboat diplomacy is the designation of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger as chairman of the bipartisan commission for Central America, which also includes U.S. Ambassador to the UN Jeanne Kirkpatrick, to complete a duo that is widely known for its reactionary declarations and its active participation in the destabilizing arms race of the United States.

The U.S. fleet sent two aircraft carriers, numerous warships, and 5,000 soldiers to the Central American region to conduct military exercises, which are larger than the ones carried out last year in Honduras.

The provocations against Nicaragua were made evident by criminal actions of the Honduran Army in attacks on a patrol boat in the Gulf of Fonseca on the border between the two countries and on two Nicaraguan fishing boats, and in the establishment of the military base in Puerto Castilla, which foreshadowed an intention of self-aggression to justify the intervention of Yankee troops during the U.S. maneuvers.

The sum of the occurrences in the zone affect the independence of the Central American peoples and is the cause of an indestructible union to halt fascist arrogance. We are no longer living in the days when the policy of the big stick was easily applied, and [Latin] America is uniting more and more to prevent the advance of the arrogant 7-league giant.

Stone-Zamora Meeting

FL011414 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1235 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Commentary by Roberto Agudo of Revists de la Manana -- live]

[Excerpts] We are going to begin our satellite news with an item that has unquestionably made an impact on Latin American public opinion. It deals with the meeting held in Bogota among Belisario Betancur, the Colombian President; Richard Stone, President Reagan's special envoy to Central America; and Ruben Zamora, one of the leaders of the Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR] of El Salvador.

Although the subjects discussed at the meeting among Zamora, Stone, and Betancur were not officially revealed, it has been rumored that the principal subject was a proposal to seek normalization in El Salvador through negotiations. It is expected, and this is speculation by the press agencies, that a new meeting between Stone and Betancur this morning will not be attended by Zamora, who left Bogota immediately after the first meeting.

The possibility has not been discarded -- it is being said -- that Betancur will serve as liaison for formal meetings, of which the site, date, and time have already been discussed but not agreed upon. This demonstrates, in the opinion of experts and news correspondents, the willingness of the FDR to find a solution to the Salvadoran problem through talks and negotiations. This is in contradiction to the position of the Salvadoran regime and to the policy imposed in the area and on the Salvadoran regime by Mr Reagan's administration.

For days there had been speculation about this type of, let us say, conference or meeting, but it had not been held. Perhaps, others speculate, Mr. Stone had tried to meet with some of the guerrilla leaders for propaganda purposes, that is, he initiated the rumor that he wanted to meet, perhaps expecting the guerrillas to refuse a meeting. However, the meeting was held. Now we have to await the specific results of this situation.

MONTANE, JAPAN'S TOMIO NISHIZAWA HOLD TALKS

FL012256 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of the Politburo, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee, and chief of its General Department of Foreign Relations has held talks with Tomio Nishizawa, vice chairman of the Presidium of the Japanese Communist Party, who headed his party's delegation to the festivities commemorating the 30th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks.

During the meeting, which was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, the two sides exchanged views on the international situation as well as on other matters of mutual interest.

FORMER DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED

PA312325 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Interview with Juan Bosch, former president of the Dominican Republic, by Pedro Martinez Pirez, during Bosch's visit to Havana on the 30th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Martinez Pirez] Just a few weeks ago, you sent President Reagan an open letter, warning him of the dangers of escalating hostilities and the dangers of war in Central America. The situation in Central America is becoming more serious every day due to growing U.S. interference in the internal affairs of those nations. I would like to hear your opinion on this -- particularly on the dangers Nicaragua is facing.

[Bosch] Pedro, I am convinced that the United States has become an obstacle to the development of the world's productive forces -- not those in the United States, but in the world. For example, the aggressive capacity developed by the United States in the past few years to persecute countries that are advancing in their development, limiting them in such a way so as to prevent their development, will cause history to turn against the United States to the effect that it will be finished as a world power. Central America may be the key element in this turning point in history that will lead the United States toward that end.

If there is U.S. military aggression in Central America, no one can predict what may happen there or what may happen in the world as a consequence. I say this because the U.S. Government, according to President Reagan himself, has developed a theory to which the United States is absolutely committed. The theory is that what is happening in El Salvador is owing to the fact that Nicaragua is sending arms to the Salvadoran guerrillas, that Nicaragua is, in turn, an instrument of Cuban policy, and that Cuba acts as it does because it is an instrument of the USSR.

All of these things lead inevitably to this concept: El Salvador, Nicaragua, Cuba, the USSR. The United States cannot stop at this. If it lands troops in El Salvador, if it sends troops to El Salvador -- and it is already participating in the Salvadoran war -- it will have to go on to Nicaragua, and from Nicaragua to Cuba, and from Cuba to the USSR. Do you know what that would mean? The third world war: The third and the last, because that would be a nuclear war. That is the position I outlined, that I expressed, in my open letter to President Ronald Reagan.

[Martinez Pierz] Bosch, what would your attitude be in the event of aggression against Nicaragua?

[Bosch] I am Dominican insofar as my country, the Dominican Republic, is part of America. To me, my real homeland is all of Latin America, and Nicaragua is part of Latin America. Therefore, I cannot make a distinction between the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua. If Nicaragua is attacked, it would be as if the Dominican Republic were attacked; I would defend it with my own blood, and I would also defend Nicaragua with my blood.

[Martinez Pirez] Thank you, Professor Bosch, for these declarations to Radio Havana, in an interview conducted by Pedro Martinez Pirez.

[Bosch] I do not deserve your thanks. It is I who should thank you, Radio Havana, and Cuba.

BENAVIDES, SEYCHELLES' BELMONT HOLD TALKS

FL012242 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] In Havana, Joaquin Benavides, minister-president of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security, has met with Seychelles' Minister of Labor and Social Security Joseph Belmont, who is visiting Cuba at the invitation of the government to attend the festivities marking the 30th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks. During the talks, which were held in a fraternal atmosphere, the two leaders examined the relations between the two ministries. Earlier in the day, Belmont visited the National Center for Scientific Labor Research, where he was received by its director, (Armando Lopez).

GHANA DELEGATION LEAVES AFTER 26 JUL CELEBRATION

FL011652 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1407 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Jorge Risquet, member of the Cuban Communist Party Politburo, has bid farewell to the delegation from Ghana at the Jose Marti International airport. [Information Minister] Joyce Aryee left together with Colonel (James Ernst Kotaike), who had also been invited to the 26 July festivities.

BAHAMAS

GOVERNMENT VOTES DOWN ELECTION LAW PROBE

FL291238 Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 21 Jul 83 p 1

[By Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpt] Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna, leading Government members in the House of Assembly in voting down an opposition request to probe the election laws, Wednesday declared that the majority does not intend to fashion the laws to enable the minority to govern.

Mr Hanna said that he could not support the move by the Opposition as they had not made out a case for the Representation of the People Act, 1969, to be amended, and that the changes they sought were to suit themselves and not the Bahamian people.

Mr Hanna, Government Leader in the House and Minister of Finance, was the last person on the Government side to speak on the motion before it was soundly defeated by a vote of 15-7.

BARBADOS

CENTRAL BANK REPORTS NATIONAL DEBT HIKE

FL291246 Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 21 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] The Barbados National Debt which according to the Central Bank stood at $760 million at the end of last year, has increased by a further $55.4 million during the first four months this year.

But the foreign reserves which in March had reached a record $218.8 million fell by $16.2 million at the end of April reaching $202.6 million.

According to the June edition of the Bank's Economic and Financial Statistics, the national debt stood at $815.4 million at the end of April.

The foreign component of the debt was tabulated at $330.9 million, up from the $315.8 million in March. The domestic component stood at $484.5 million having gone up from $465.8 million.

PAPER CRITICIZES LIBYAN SCHOLARSHIP OFFER

FL011534 Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 26 Jul 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Saint Lucia's Turn"]

[Text] It is now Saint Lucia's turn to face up to the problems posed when its nationals are offered scholarships by countries known to be left-leaning and could well be using their influence to embarrass elected governments. The prime minister of Saint Lucia, Mr John Compton, has accused that Opposition Progressive Labour Party (PLP) of sending young St. Lucians to Libya for training in sabotage and terrorism.

It is a serious charge. But it is in keeping with similar feelings expressed by other Caribbean governments when scholarships come "though the back-door."

It will be recalled that the Barbados Government was forced to take a firm stand when certain Cuban sources decided to offer scholarships to Barbadians through MONALI (the Movement for National Liberation). These were not scholarships coming from the Cuban Government and offered to Barbadians through the Barbados Government. Nonetheless, the Cuban Government might well have known of the arrangement. When the Barbados Government took its stand about scholarships being offered to Barbadians other than through official sources, the Cuban Government was not prepared to spoil its relations with Barbados. The offer was dropped.

The big question that had not been answered was why the Cuban scholarships should be seen coming to Barbadians by way of MONALI, when Cuba and Barbados have diplomatic relations.

Not long afterwards, a similar situation developed in Dominica and the Dominican Government also rejected the method used by the Cubans. Now it is Libya and the St. Lucians.

The PLP has rejected the claims made by Mr. Compton about the Libyan scholarships. It is claiming that the 18 St. Lucians who are going to Libya "will be learning a variety of technical skills," and has maintained that it will be taking scholarships "from any government, such as Cuba, Libya, and even America, if citizens of St. Lucia will benefit."

This is tantamount to telling the government that the PLP will do as it pleases in the matter. It is a serious challenge and one that could force the Saint Lucia government to show that it is not as helpless in the situation as the PLP seems to assume.

The latest development is the seizure of 14 of the youths passports.

The problem with Libya is that its leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, has built a reputation for encouraging and exporting revolution. Why his government should be seen singling out St. Lucians for "a variety of training" at this stage is bound to arouse suspicions especially when it is known that the PLP in St Lucia is left-leaning.

Mr. Compton claimed that the PLP has been receiving funds from Libya and gave a figure of some US$40,000. The implications are clear from what Mr. Compton has been saying that the PLP is not only thinking as it claims, about helping St. Lucians, but is getting some help from Libya.

It is not a comfortable situation for Saint Lucia however the matter is viewed. Libya's interest in the country as expressed through the PLP, a party in opposition, must create some suspicions on the part of the government. When these suspicions reveal themselves in the shape of threats of terrorism and sabotage the atmosphere becomes most unsettling.

There is still much truth about lying down with a dog and inevitably being bitten by fleas. Even if the PLP wants the rest of St. Lucia to believe that the intentions of Libya are honourable, the track record of the Al-Qadhdhafi government is not such as to encourage this confidence.

GRENADA

PRIME MINISTER BISHOP RETURNS FROM CUBA

FL290150 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Maurice Bishop returned home today after representing Grenada at celebrations in Cuba marking the 30th anniversary of the Moncada attack. Comrade Bishop, who was accompanied by Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman, was among special guests at the rally on Tuesday held in commemoration of the Moncada attack.

Among his other engagements was a visit yesterday to a textile factory which has been officially opened in Santiago de Cuba. During the ceremony, Comrade Bishop presented to Cuban leader Fidel Castro one of the .303 rifles captured from Gairy's enemy forces on March 13, 1979.

HAITI

GROUP SAYS DUVALIER, REAGAN HAVE SECRET PACTS

PA292216 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] The Democratic Union of Haitian Emigrants [Union Democratica de los Emigrantes Haitianos], headquartered in the Dominican Republic, has charged that the U.S. Army has installed a surveillance post in a part of Haiti that is closest to Cuba's coasts. The organization has also charged that U.S. President Ronald Reagan and dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier have reached secret agreements that entail the cession to the United States of the Haitian peninsula of Mole Sain-Nicolas, where the Pentagon plans to establish a powerful naval base.

The organization stated that Duvalier made these concessions to the United States, which violate Haiti's national sovereignty, in exchange for greater U.S. aid in all areas and for Washington's promise to keep him in power.

JAMAICA

MANLEY CALLS FOR END TO U.S. 'AGGRESSION'

FL291216 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] In Kingston, a new call for the United States to put an end to its acts of suppression and military aggression against Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada was issued by former Prime Minister Michael Manley, president of the People's National Party [PNP] and vice president of the Socialist International.

In a declaration on the Central American situation, Manley stated that such communist subversion does not exist in the area. The causes of the conflicts in the region are none other then hunger, poverty, and lack of opportunity brought about by decades of oppression and exploitation following the issuing of the Monroe Doctrine.

Michael Manley specified that the PNP considers the Nicaraguan revolution a positive phenomenon in the region's constant struggles for survival and national independence.

The prestigious Jamaican leader then insisted on rejecting the Yankee thesis of exportation of the Nicaraguan and Grenadian revolutions. He emphasized that the revolutions in those two countries are the people's responses to decades of oppression and exploitation.

ECUADOR

MINISTER, ADMINISTRATION SECRETARY REPLACED

PA292112 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado has overcome the minor cabinet crisis that resulted yesterday when Agriculture Minister Carlos Vallejo and Secretary of the Administration Vladimir Serrano tendered their resignations. The two are members of the People's Democracy and will run as candidates for the legislature.

President Hurtado appointed agricultural engineer Eduardo Izaguirre, who was serving as governor of Manabi, to replace Vallejo. Andres Crespo, a native of Guayaquil, was appointed to replace Serrano. Crespo assumed his duties yesterday, after taking office in a ceremony at the palace.

BRIEFS

CREDITORS REFINANCE DEBT -- Ecuador's creditor countries, gathered at the Paris Club, have agreed to refinance the public sector's $269-million foreign debt for the 1983-85 period, it has been officially announced. [Text] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Jul 83 PA]

STANDBY CREDIT SIGNED -- It has been reported in Washington that the IMF and the Ecuadorean Government have signed a standby credit agreement for $167 million. This credit will strengthen the Ecuadorean balance of payments and reduce the current account deficit before the end of year. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Jul 83 PA]

VENEZUELA

MINISTER WILLING TO SEND PEACE FORCE TO C.A.

PA311246 Paris AFP in Spanish 0137 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] Caracas, 30 Jul (AFP) -- Venezuelan Defense Minister [as received] General Humberto Alcalde Alvarez said today that if the Contadora Group recommended the sending of troops to form peace or observer forces along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, he would participate in those forces if the Venezuelan President so ordered.

The ranking officer made this statement on leaving the Metropolitan Cathedral following a mass in honor of the bicentennial of Simon Bolivar's birth. Cardinal Jose Ali Lebrun officiated at the mass. Alcalde Alvarez said: "If the Contadora Group were to recommend that the rulers or heads of state of its member countries form a peace force or send observers to this area, especially to the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, Venezuela would be willing to participate, following orders and authorization from the president of the republic, who is the commander-in-chief of the armed forces."

The minister then referred to U.S. President Ronald Reagan's statement that the Central American conflict should be negotiated through the OAS and not through the Contadora Group. Alcalde Alvarez said: "This is one path of action that will undoubtedly be analyzed, at least I believe it will, and the Contadora countries will undoubtedly reply to the U.S. President."